

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Thursday, September 13, 2018

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, September 13, 2018, in the Arkansas Department of Education (Department) Auditorium. Chair Dr. Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Present: Dr. Jay Barth, Chair; Charisse Dean, Vice-Chair; Dr. Fitz Hill; Diane Zook; Ouida Newton; Brett Williamson; Susan Chambers; Dr. Sarah Moore; Kathy McFetridge; Randi House, 2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: None

Recognitions

Purple Star School Recognitions

Seven schools from the Cabot School District were recognized as the first seven schools in the state to receive the Purple Star School Award. A principal and counselor from each school accepted a certificate for the designation. The schools were Eastside Elementary School, Mountain Springs Elementary School, Southside Elementary School, Stagecoach Elementary School, Cabot Middle School North, Cabot Junior High School North, and Cabot Freshman Academy.

Consent Agenda

State Board members asked clarifying questions on Consent Agenda items three and eight.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the consent agenda:

- Minutes – August 9, 2018 and August 10, 2018
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
- Consideration of Report on Licensure Exceptions to School Districts
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 17-199 Stephen Andrews
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-076 Britt Mounce
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-076 Kale Eaton
- Consideration of Approval of Education Service Cooperative's Annual 2017-2018 Report
- Act 1240 Annual Progress Report: Helena/West Helena School District

- Act 1240 Annual Progress Report: Monticello School District
- Act 1240 Annual Progress Report: Nemo Vista School District
- Act 1240 Annual Progress Report: Nettleton School District
- Act 1240 Annual Progress Report: Malvern School District

Action Agenda A

A-1 2019-2021 Arkansas Governor School Site Committee Recommendation

Dr. Barth announced that he would recuse himself and Ms. Dean acted as State Board chair for this action item.

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Ms. Stacy Smith said the AGS Site Selection Committee recommended Arkansas Tech University at Russellville as the 2019-2021 AGS site. The selection process began in the fall of 2017. Arkansas Tech University, Hendrix College, and University of Central Arkansas were sites which submitted an application by the deadline. Discussion was heard regarding the selection process and the site applications.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to hear public comment outside of those who had previously signed up to speak. The motion carried unanimously.

Multiple people made public comment, both in support of and in opposition to the recommendation for ATU to be named the 2019-2021 AGS site.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to accept the AGS Site Selection Committee's recommendation that Arkansas Tech University be named the 2019-2021 Arkansas Governor School site. There was a roll call vote. Ms. Chambers, Dr. Hill, Ms. McFetridge, Dr. Moore and Ms. Newton voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Williamson and Ms. Zook voted in opposition. Final vote 5-2. The motion carried.

A-2 Consideration of Fourth Round for Arkansas Better Chance 2018-2019 Renewal Grants

Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education Director Ms. Tonya Williams, introduced Ms. Audrey Freshwater, who is the new pre-K administrator and will serve as the division representative for future State Board meetings.

Ms. Williams said that they were requesting 10 ABC slots be added to the Gurdon School District's available slots, which would bring the number of available slots up to 50.

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to approve the request for 10 additional slots for the renewal grants for next year. The motion carried unanimously.

A-3 Provision of Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) 2018-2019 Funding Targeting Foster Care

Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education Director Ms. Tonya Williams said they were requesting approval to use ABC funding to serve children in foster care as they are placed in various communities throughout the year. The funds requested will support the services of children in foster care when the ABC program exceeds the initial state-approved funding amount. There was brief discussion on this item.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the use of ABC funding serve children in foster care. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Williams said that she wanted the State Board to be aware that they are going to be adding the Outcomes of ABC Children, as links on both the Department's website and their own. The document contains information on late elementary school children. Dr. Barth requested that State Board members receive a link to the document via email when it is made available.

A-4a Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Focus Academy of Arts and Sciences, Bentonville

Director of Program Evaluation Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on August 15, 2018, representatives of Focus Academy of Arts and Sciences appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a charter in the Bentonville School District. By a vote of 4-1, the Panel denied the request. No request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision regarding Focus Academy of Arts and Sciences, Bentonville. The motion carried unanimously.

A-4b Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Pioneer Schools, North Little Rock

Director of Program Evaluation Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on August 15, 2018, representatives of Pioneer Schools appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a charter in the North Little Rock School District. By a vote of 4-1, the Panel denied the request. No request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision on Pioneer Schools, North Little Rock. The motion carried unanimously.

A-4c Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Premier High School of North Little Rock

Director of Program Evaluation Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on August 15, 2018, representatives of Premier High School of North Little Rock appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a charter in the North Little Rock School District. By unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. No request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision on Premier High School of North Little Rock. Ms. Zook voted in opposition. Final vote 7-1. The motion carried.

A-4d Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Prolific Learning Arts Academy, Little Rock

Director of Program Evaluation Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on August 15, 2018, representatives of Prolific Learning Arts Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a charter in the Little Rock School District. By a vote of 4-1, the Panel denied the request. No request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision on Prolific Learning Arts Academy, Little Rock. The motion carried unanimously.

A-4e Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: The Seven Arts Lyceum, Searcy

Director of Program Evaluation Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on August 16, 2018, representatives of The Seven Arts Lyceum appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a charter in the Searcy School District. By a vote of 4-1, the Panel denied the request. No request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision on The Seven Arts Lyceum, Searcy. The motion carried unanimously.

A-4f Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel's Decision on Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Sims-Fayola International Academy Pine Bluff

Director of Program Evaluation Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on August 16, 2018, representatives of Sims-Fayola International Academy Pine Bluff appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a charter in the Pine Bluff School District. By a vote of 3-2, the Panel denied the request. No request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision on Sims-Fayola International Academy Pine Bluff. The motion carried unanimously.

A-4g Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel's Decision on Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Sugarloaf Valley Academy, Hackett

Director of Program Evaluation Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on August 16, 2018, representatives of Sugarloaf Valley Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a charter in the Hackett School District. By a vote of 4-1, the Panel denied the request. No request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision on Sugarloaf Valley Academy, Hackett. The motion carried unanimously.

A-5 Consideration of Legislative Reports & Approval of District Support Plans: Earle School District

Superintendent Dr. Richard Wilde presented the quarterly state report for Earle School District pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-112 & 6-15-2917, regarding school districts under state authority. There was a brief question period.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to accept the quarterly state report for Earle School District. The motion carried unanimously.

A-6 Consideration of Legislative Reports & Approval of District Support Plans: Dollarway School District

Superintendent Ms. Barbara Warren presented the quarterly state report for Dollarway School District pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-112 & 6-15-2917, regarding school districts under state authority. There was a brief question period.

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to accept the quarterly state report for Dollarway School District. The motion carried unanimously.

A-7 Consideration of Legislative Reports & Approval of District Support Plans: Little Rock School District

Superintendent Mr. Michael Poore presented the quarterly state report for Little Rock School District pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-112 & 6-15-2917, regarding school districts under state authority. There was a brief question period.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to accept the quarterly state report for Little Rock School District. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Agenda B

B-1 Consideration of Pine Bluff School District for Fiscal Distress

ADE General Counsel Ms. Lori Freno said under the Arkansas Fiscal Assessment Accountability Program the ADE can identify a school district as being in fiscal distress if it meets certain criteria set forth in fiscal distress law. She said that a school district identified as being in fiscal distress may appeal the designation to the State Board. The Department submitted a letter in a timely manner to the Pine Bluff School District regarding the designation; however, the school district did not appeal.

Assistant Commissioner of Fiscal and Administrative Services Mr. Greg Rogers and Coordinator of Fiscal Distress Cynthia Smith provided financial background information regarding the Pine Bluff School

District. Mr. Rogers estimated that without significant changes made to the budget, the district would most likely be in the red, with a negative balance, by April.

Public comments were heard by the State Board.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Newton to accept ADE's recommendation to classify the Pine Bluff School District as being in fiscal distress. There was a roll call vote and all State Board members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Freno explained all of the additional steps which could be taken by the State Board or the Commissioner of Education now that the district has be classified as being in fiscal distress.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to remove all members of the district's board and give the Commissioner of Education the authority of board for governance of the district, to remove the district's superintendent and have the Commissioner appoint a new superintendent to act under the Commissioner's supervision, and that the Commissioner be directed to take other actions that he deems appropriate to assist the district in the removal of the fiscal distress classification. There was a roll call vote and all State Board members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B-2 Request for Reinstatement of Succeed Scholarship


Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said that this is a request from the Vicks family to transfer their child's scholarship from Compass Academy to St. Joseph's School.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Dr. Moore, to grant the transfer of the scholarship from Compass Academy to St. Joseph's School. The motion carried unanimously.

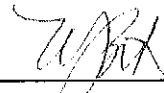
Adjournment

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Tiffany Donovan



Johnny Key, Commissioner



Jay Barth, Chair